

Utah and the Pony Express

by

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JAMES "DOCK" SHANKS

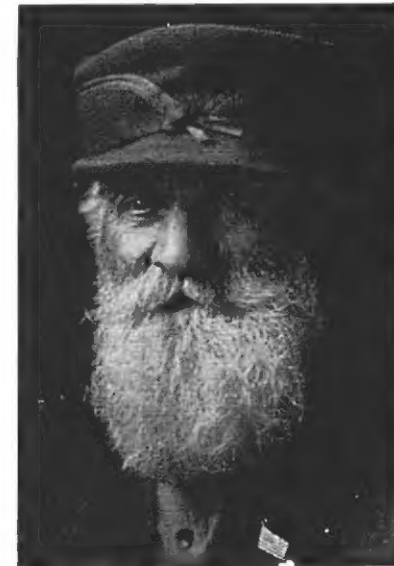
Little information is available on James Dock Shanks, another Mormon youth who played a part in the Pony Express operations in Utah. He was born November 29, 1833 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, England, the son of James Shanks and Isabella Dock, pioneers of

1855. Young James preceded his parents to Utah by two years, arriving in the Valley in the Jacob Gates company of 1853. His first job in Salt Lake City was helping to build the wall around the temple block, after which he began delivering mail to the neighboring towns. Later he was employed by Major Howard Egan as a rider.

After the demise of the Pony Express, James moved to Heber City, Wasatch County, where, in time, he built three different homes for his three different families. In 1855 he married Isabella Muir. They were the parents of eight children; in 1875 he married Eva Erickson and seven children were born to them. In 1899 Caroline Homan became his wife. Mr. Shanks was a faithful Latter-day Saint, serving as a High Priest and home missionary. He was an experienced horticulturist and it was his pride and pleasure to decorate the meetinghouse on numerous occasions with beautiful flowers.

WILLIAM HENRY STREEPER

William Henry Streeper, son of Wilkinson and Matilda Wells Streeper, was born August 1, 1837 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the year 1843, he, with his parents, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois where he resided until the martyrdom of the Prophet. Accompanied



William H. Streeper

by his parents he traveled by steamboat to St. Louis, Missouri in which city he stayed until the spring of 1850. While there he was employed on the new gas works system, being assigned to light twenty-five lamps each night and extinguish them in the morning. The pay was five dollars a month which was later increased to ten dollars. With this money he assisted his father in purchasing needed equipment for the journey to Utah. The start across the plains was made from Kanesville, Iowa early in April, 1851, reaching their destination in the Salt Lake Valley in October of that year.

William and his father built a home for the family in the Old Fourteenth Ward. He also hauled wood from the surrounding canyons, not only for home use but to sell to others. Wood was one of the chief mediums of exchange at that time by which debts could be paid. In 1858, he,